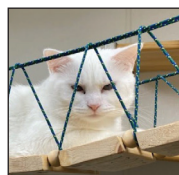




Honor Flight
Network, p.9



Girl scout cat
bridges, p.8

Council Changes Charter, Will Say if Manager Must Live Here

by Diane Oberg

A charter amendment approved by the Greenbelt City Council on April 11 will give council the ability to waive the requirement that the city manager must live in Greenbelt. The amendment passed on a 4 to 3 vote with Councilmembers Colin Byrd, Judith Davis and Rodney Roberts opposed. The amendment will go into effect on May 31 unless petitioned to referendum by May 21.

Public Input

There has appeared to be little public interest in this change. Council held two public hearings on March 23 and April 1. The councilmembers had expected more public comment than could be accommodated at a regular meeting so they allocated two

hours per hearing and held one hearing on a Saturday. However, the first hearing lasted about 30 minutes, excluding a 15-minute grace period to accommodate late arrivals (with none appearing). The second hearing was even shorter, clocking in at about 20 minutes excluding a 15-minute recess.

Only two people spoke on this item at the April 11 council meeting. Catherine Meetre, of Research Road, said that citizens, not council, should decide what powers are appropriate for council to wield. She was also concerned that the amendment giving council the authority to require some managers to live inside the city while allowing others to reside elsewhere could

allow council to discriminate and open the city to legal liability. She announced that she and others will attempt to collect enough signatures to place the measure on the ballot as a referendum.

Those interested in pursuing a petition drive face a tough challenge. To achieve the requested referendum, 3,010 registered voters (20 percent of the 15,047 registered voters at the time of the last council election) must sign. When the charter was written, Greenbelt maintained its own voter rolls, which mostly included those interested enough in city affairs to vote. Now, however, the city uses the county voter rolls, which include many people who do not participate in city elections. For example, in 1989 there were 3,636 registered voters, 2,363 (65) percent of whom

See CHARTER, page 12

Interview

Jade Eaton Focuses on Equal Justice as a Court Watcher

by Lois Rosado

Jade Eaton was born in Allentown, Penn., and moved to the Washington, D.C., area in 1972. After marriage, she lived in College Park for 35 years, where her three children were raised. Two of her children attended Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Eaton has lived in Greenbelt for the past 10 years. She spent her ca-

reer as an attorney in the Department of Justice's Anti-Trust division, working on issues related to electricity competition; she retired in 2017. Her professional work was never connected to the criminal justice system.

In the aftermath of the chaos of 2020 and 2021, Eaton wanted to become engaged in social jus-

tice, but it had to be something that would make a difference. After hearing about Court Watch through the Friends Meeting she attends in Adelphi, and doing additional research, she felt that it was something that she could do. Eaton had the training and is now

See JUSTICE, page 10

No More Leaks! GAFC Pool Remediation Project Begins

by Susan Taylor



PHOTO BY STEPHEN PARKS, GAFC

Out with the old and in with the new at the Aquatic & Fitness Center

As the weather warms and thoughts turn to summer, Greenbelters have noticed a flurry of activity around the outdoor pool of the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC).

The Greenbelt City Council voted on March 28 to approve the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for retaining wall remediation work at GAFC. Willis Shafer, director of Public Works, anticipates the work to be completed by mid-May.

Structural Remediation

The damaged concrete of the retaining wall allows water to leak into the pool filter room, damaging the structure and equipment. Like many of the crucial mechanical workings of the pool, it is hidden from public view, located underneath the outdoor pool and deck.

Both the interior and exterior retaining walls, located behind the outdoor pool facing Braden Field, need to be repaired.

Order of Work

The first phase of the work involves prepping the site and repairing damage to the outdoor pool deck. Next the contractors will turn to repairing the vertical walls and columns themselves.

Public Works will be assessing

See GAFC, page 10

What Goes On

Monday, April 24
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting/Budget First Public Hearing, Municipal Building
Wednesday, April 26
7:30 p.m., Council Budget Worksession: Recreation/Museum, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar on greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO BY KATE MAGILL ROBINSON

Magic Toy Shop dancers Molly Turner, left, and Evalena McLaughlin, are ready for their roles in the dance studio production at the Community Center on May 6 and 7. See page 3.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Young neighbors enjoy the garden at Mary Lou Williamson's annual Garden Party on April 16. See more photos throughout the paper.

Letters to the Editor

Non-Citizen Voting In City Elections

I appreciate the coverage by the News Review’s Susan Taylor and her use of quotes at the council worksession to discuss voting in city elections by non-citizens. She noted that the issue had been referred previously to the Board of Elections for comment. The issue was also referred to the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) who spent parts of several meetings discussing it. It is CRAB who recommended to council that non-citizens be allowed to vote with restrictions as determined by council. CRAB was represented at the council worksession by Co-Chair Jamie Krauk.

Rick Ransom
Chair, CRAB

Thank You

On behalf of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, I would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who participated and attended our indoor community yard sale. You have always been there to support and help us; for that we are thankful and grateful to each of

you. Behind every great community are great people and that is why Greenbelt is so great because of friends and neighbors like you!

A heartfelt Thank You. See you at our next yard sale event during the summer.

Kathy Reynolds
Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Dept.
Ladies Auxiliary

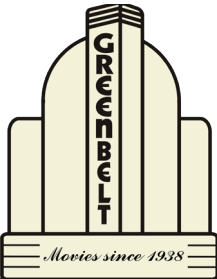
Protect Your Right To Have Your Say

The Greenbelt Homes Incorporated (GHI) Board of Directors is proposing two bylaw amendments for consideration by the membership at the upcoming GHI Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 11.

One of the two proposed amendments would remove the right of members to vote on large dollar, multi-year contracts. If passed, membership approval would not be required for large capital projects, such as the upcoming major interior pipe rehabilitation project.

This proposed amendment is antithetical to the cooperative principle that co-ops are

See **LETTERS**, page 6



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
APRIL 21ST - APRIL 27TH

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Chevalier (PG-13) (CC) (DVS)
(2023) (107 mins)

Fri. 4:30 PM, 7:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 8:00 PM
Wed. 8:00 PM
Thurs. 4:30 PM

Next Time We Love
(NR) (1936) (87 mins)
Free 35mm screening with
guest speaker!

Thurs. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Mafia Mamma (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2023) (101 mins)

Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:45 PM
Mon. 3:00 PM (OC)
Tues. 8:15 PM
Wed. 5:45 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM

Air (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2023) (112 mins)

Fri. 7:15 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM **Screen 1**
Tues. 5:45 PM
Wed. 8:15 PM
Thurs. 4:45 PM

The Conversation
(PG) (1974) (113 mins)
Cinema Classics Lecture -
must register online!

Mon. 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM



- Shayna Skolnik, News Review May 12, 2016

Drop us a Line!
Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
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Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

Chevalier

The film was inspired by the true story of composer Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. The illegitimate son of an African slave and a French plantation owner, Bologne (Kelvin Harrison Jr. in a tour de force performance) rises to improbable heights in French society as a celebrated violinist-composer and fencer, complete with an ill-fated love affair and a falling out with Marie Antoinette (Lucy Boynton) and her court. Critic Peter Debruge of Variety said of the film, “Less a definitive portrait than a fascinating departure point for further reading and research.”

Next Time We Love

In this classic film, aspiring actress Cicely Tyler (Margaret Sullivan) marries ambitious newsman Christopher Tyler (Jimmy Stewart), but their life together is interrupted when he is assigned to a good position in his newspaper’s Rome bureau and she stays behind, confiding to her rich secret admirer, Tommy Abbott (Ray Milland), that she is pregnant. Separations, reunions and reconciliations follow as Cicely and Christopher struggle to balance their romance and their careers.

Mafia Mamma


An American suburban woman, Kristin (Toni Collette), has a son who wants to leave college, a boss who is a sexist pig and she caught her unsuccessful musician husband cheating with a groupie. Then she inherits her grandfather’s mafia empire in Italy. Guided by the firm’s consigliere (Monica Bellucci), Kristin defies everyone’s expectations as the new head of the family business. Critic Katie Walsh of the Tribune News Service said, “Mafia Mamma is much more wacky, funny and violent than the too-tame trailers would have you believe.”

Air

From award-winning director Ben Affleck, Air reveals the game-changing partnership between a then-rookie Michael Jordan and Nike’s fledgling basketball division which revolutionized the world of sports and contemporary culture with the Air Jordan brand. This moving story follows the career-defining gamble of an unconventional team with everything on the line, the uncompromising vision of a mother who knows the worth of her son’s immense talent and the basketball phenom who would become the greatest of all time.

The Conversation

Francis Ford Coppola directed this 1974 mystery thriller. Surveillance expert Harry Caul (Gene Hackman) is hired by a mysterious client’s brusque aide, Martin Stett (Harrison Ford), to tail a young couple, Mark (Frederic Forrest) and Ann (Cindy Williams). Tracking the pair through San Francisco’s Union Square, Caul and his associate Stan (John Cazale) manage to record a cryptic conversation between them. Tormented by memories of a previous case that ended badly, Caul becomes obsessed with the resulting tape, trying to determine if the couple are in danger.

**Greenbelt Access Television**
Apr. 22, Sat. - Apr. 28, Fri
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Till the Clouds Roll By (1946)

Join us for this classic musical depicting love and perseverance in the face of grief. Featuring an incredible ensemble cast including Judy Garland, June Allyson, Lucille Bremer, Robert Walker, Van Johnson, and Lena Horne!

Music from the New Deal Cafe (2pm, 10pm)
The Bachelor & The Bad Actress

This duo sounds like “a film about two folk musicians hanging out an an absurd,” covering nearly every topic under the sun, from BMX to politics to seasonal affective disorder, all with a tongue-in-cheek playfulness that is a treat to see!

All this and more on the GATe channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](#) for new video productions.

Obituaries

Kathleen McFarland



Kathleen McFarland

Pioneer Greenbelter Kathleen Scott McFarland died on April 11, 2023, at the age of 95. She was born February 9, 1928, in Panama City, Fla., to Robert L. (Red) Scott and Mary Deisinger Scott. Her parents were both working in Florida -- her dad a heavy-equipment operator from Tennessee, her mother a daughter of German immigrant farmers in Pennsylvania. A year later, the family was in Charleston, S.C., where her dad worked on the Cooper River Bridge and her sister Joanne was born. By 1930, the family had relocated to Washington, D.C., where her dad helped build the Memorial Bridge and her brother Robert was born.

In Washington, the family rented the bottom half of an old house in the Brightwood neighborhood. In April 1938, when Kathleen was 10 years old, her parents applied for and were accepted to become residents of the new town of Greenbelt. They moved to 4-G Southway when the sod was still being put down. Her mother said the move came “just in the nick of time,” since the old house in Washington was scheduled to be razed for apartments and there was a severe housing shortage.

The three Scott children soon adapted to their new life in Greenbelt, going to Center School (so different from their strict Catholic school in Washington), taking swimming lessons at the pool and having playmates galore in each court. They joined Scouts and Cubs and made new friends. In 1940 the Greenbelt Community Band was formed for young people 12 to 18 years old, and Kathleen learned to play the clarinet. The Band became a large part of her life.

In 1941, Kathleen’s baby sister Rosemary was born, and the

Scotts applied for one of the few larger houses that had a basement. Under government rules, these homes were reserved for “larger” families, and now having four children, the Scotts qualified and moved into 7-K Crescent Road. They loved that house, and it was Kathleen’s home from high school to her marriage. She graduated from Greenbelt High School in 1944 at age 16 and kept in touch with her high-school friends all her life.

Just before graduation, Kathleen and some of her friends participated in a scholarship contest for a one-year secretarial course at Strayer Business College. Kathleen was surprised to learn that she had won the contest and was convinced by her practical parents to take the course. She spent the next year traveling by bus and streetcar to Strayer in downtown Washington and never regretted it, taking shorthand, typing, business English and accounting.

She put her new talents to use by working the next two years at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm in Beltsville and later in the Plant Industry Station headquarters on Route 1. She attended Trinity College in Washington for two years before her marriage to her Greenbelt High classmate and fellow clarinetist, Henry T. McFarland, on April 30, 1949.

As newlyweds, the McFar-



Kathleen Scott and Pat Brown, 1945, pose in their band uniforms. See story in the January 26, 2022 issue about the youth band.

lands lived in a Parkway apartment until 1953, after the government sold the town and Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) took over. Then they bought their first house, a two-bedroom, at 7-E Southway. As their family grew, they moved at Christmas 1955 to a three-bedroom at 38-F Ridge Road. By 1962, with seven children, they needed more room – but wanted to stay in Greenbelt. That’s when they bought their house on Fayette Place in the new Lakewood subdivision, where their eighth child, Helen, was born, and where Kathleen lived until the end of her life.

There was a 15-year span of McFarland children, so life was always busy – school activities, piano lessons, 4-H meetings

(including being a club leader), church groups and Boy Scouts – and later, weddings, in-laws, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a great support to her husband, who supplemented his “day job” at Goddard Space Flight Center by playing saxophone and leading “Heinrich and the Rheinlanders,” a polka band that played at Blob’s Park in Jessup and at many local celebrations from the late 1950s until the mid-70s. In addition to raising children, in the 1960s she worked for Capital Library Service,

See OBITUARIES, page 6



Greenbelt resident Lois Rosado was featured in the April 15 issue of the Washington Post as she helped commemorate Thomas Juricks, the first known lynching victim in Prince George’s County. Rosado is a member of the Prince George’s County Lynching Memorial Project.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
of GREENBELT

MASS

Sundays 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Road

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
FDeBernardo@aol.com

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come as you are



The Bible Says...

Therefore bear fruit
in keeping with repentance
Matthew 3:8



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School

MCFcc.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon–Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
 - Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
 - Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.
- Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org



Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



April 23, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Learning How to Pray – with a Nod to Earth Day

Rev. Roberta Finkelstein with Worship Associate Carol Carter Walker

What does prayer mean to Unitarian Universalists? How many of us ‘pray’ simply by enjoying nature? On this 53rd Earth Day, Rev. Roberta will reflect on the way the various and diverse sources of our faith inform our practices of prayer.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family
in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an
Open and Affirming
Church



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday

10:15 AM

for Worship
and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector

Join us for In-Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM
Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>
Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;
Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

Please contact the church office if you are interested in
any of these resources.

Our Mission: To share God’s love with everyone to
bring hope and change lives.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 24, 2023 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION
Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
Presentations
- **Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation**
- **Public Hearing - FY 2024 Proposed Budget**
* **Minutes of Council Meetings**
- **Administrative Reports**
* **Committee Reports**
- **Arts Advisory Board Report #23-4 (Greenbelt Recognition Group Recommendation)**

LEGISLATION
- **An Ordinance to Amend Article I “In General”, Section 13 “Early Voting” of Chapter 8, “Elections” of the Greenbelt City Code - 1st Reading**

OTHER BUSINESS
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholders
* Appointment to Advisory Board
* Resignation from Advisory Group

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

MEETINGS FOR APRIL 24-28

Tuesday, April 25 at 1 pm, **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, April 25 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, *On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes, Update on Tree Replacements Near Greenbrier, Update on Tree Canopy, Discuss Possible Significant Tree Walk for the Fall Fest, Adjourn*

Tuesday, April 25 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, *On the Agenda: March Minutes, Planning for Student Awards, City Education Scholarship Grant Update*

Tuesday, April 25 at 7:30 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND GREEN TREES**, *On the Agenda: Tabling at Green Man Festival, Bring Your Own Bag Bill, Updates from Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles, Events, Feral Cats in Greenbelt*

Wednesday, April 26 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - RECREATION/MUSEUM**

Thursday, April 27 at 7 pm, **FOUR CITIES MEETING (GREENBELT)**

Thursday, April 27 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Spring Clean-Up, Goddard Branch Trail Collapse, Review of March 28 City Council Meeting, Rail Tie Bridge Report, Master Trail Plan Review*

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

The purpose of the Greenbelt Education Scholarship grant is to provide assistance for residents interested in furthering their education beyond high school. Scholarships can be used to assist with the cost of college, trade school, or other educational opportunities. Qualified residents are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 over two years. Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/scholarship.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT RECOVERY FUND, ROUND 3

This ARPA program offers financial assistance to local businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions apply. To learn more, visit <http://ow.ly/9OJ350NMfA8>.

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS GRANT PROGRAM

Find out more about the City of Greenbelt First-Time Homebuyers grant program today! The grant funds can be used for closing costs and/or down payment for FHA, VA, USDA, FNMA, or Freddie Mac loans. <http://ow.ly/xlKZ50My327>.

ENGAGE GREENBELT

For all up-to-date ARPA program updates including mortgage assistance programs, scholarships, and more, visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.

The Greenbelt City Council
has scheduled a
PUBLIC HEARING
To be held during the Regular Meeting of Council
Monday, April 24, 2023, at 7:30 pm

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

This is the first of two Public Hearings on the budget. The second will be held on **Monday, May 22, 2023**.

The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtual via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged.

All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget.

Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The proposed budget is also posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov>. For more information, please call (301) 474-8000.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

NOTICE OF CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

At its regular meeting of April 11, 2023, the City Council adopted a resolution to amend the City Charter. As required by state law, this resolution will be posted in its entirety for 40 days, until May 21, at the Municipal Building, as well as on the City’s website at www.greenbeltmd.gov. Copies may also be requested of the City Clerk. It will become effective on May 31, 2023, unless a proper petition to submit the amendment to the voters on a referendum is filed as permitted by law. As also required by state law, this notice is given to provide a fair summary of the resolution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-1
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2105

Charter Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §35, City Manager-Appointment; Qualifications; Term of Office; Removal; Acting City Manager, to provide the Council the Discretion to permit a City Manager to live outside the City of Greenbelt, and update gender references to the City Manager

Purpose: To amend the City Charter §35 City manager-appointment; qualifications; term of office; removal; acting city manager, **TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL THE DISCRETION TO PERMIT A CITY MANAGER TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY OF GREENBELT.**

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or banderson@greenbeltmd.gov

CITY BUILDINGS NETWORK UPDATE & OUTAGE

On May 2, from 1-3 pm, all network services and phones will be down across all City buildings. Dial 911 or the Greenbelt Police for emergencies.

TREE CANOPY GRANTS

The City of Greenbelt is awarding a one-time, reimbursable grant to go directly towards the purchase of trees to assist homeowners and community organizations with the planting or replacement of trees caused by storm damage, disease or invasive insects. Funding for this grant will be provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and can be used to purchase, install, stake and mulch the area the tree or trees will be planted.

Applications are now open. To apply, visit engagegreenbelt.org or visit <https://forms.monday.com/forms/4a129f7cd3ba497750f3ced54a200b2a?r=use1>.

For questions on the grant, email treecanopy@greenbeltmd.gov.

Deadline to apply is no later than **June 1, 2023, at 4:30 pm**.

GREENBELT MICRO GRANTS

The City of Greenbelt Micro Grant is a one-time, matching, reimbursable grant intended to be a resident-led initiative to build community and engage new people across neighborhoods. This is a one-time, reimbursable grant funded through the American Rescue Plan Act to help communities move beyond the COVID pandemic and to broaden Greenbelt’s connections to all its neighborhoods and residents. HOA’S, Condominium Associations, Apartment Complexes, GHI Co-op, and Community Coalitions registered as 501 (c) 3 are eligible to apply for one of three types of grants, 1) Community Event Grant, 2) Neighborhood Communication Grant, and 3) Neighborhood Improvement Grant.

To learn more about and apply for the grant opportunities, please visit <https://forms.monday.com/forms/75755c04647a68ad4ff464c00401f684d?r=use1>

YOUTH CENTER GYM
CLOSED APRIL 10-30

Recreation’s Youth Center Gym will be closed due to floor resurfacing.

JOB FAIR
Saturday, May 6, 12 - 2 PM
Beltway Plaza

Join us to learn about the latest job opportunities, connect with local employers, and get access to a variety of employment resources and training.

Contact: cares@greenbeltmd.gov



BIKE TO WORK DAY
GREENBELT PIT STOP
GAFC PARKING LOT
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 6:30 - 8:30 AM

Registration is open and free!
www.biketoworkmetrodc.org

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 22, 10 AM - 1 PM
DORA KENNEDY FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL

Be a part of the community effort to revitalize the Dora Kennedy French Immersion Schools front campus with a tree planting event. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to install native treesand provide general maintenance for the area.

Register by email at kdricoll@greenbeltmd.gov.

NON-PROFIT RECOVERY GRANT

The City of Greenbelt has begun accepting applications from eligible nonprofit organizations for a one time “recovery” grant made possible through the allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Qualified nonprofits will be eligible to apply for grants up to \$25,000, as allowed by ARPA, to address negative impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding for this grant program is provided under the American Rescue Plan Act through the U.S. Department of Treasury. Under the U.S. Treasury guidelines, nonprofits eligible for assistance are those that experienced negative economic impacts or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and meet the definition of “nonprofit” – specifically those that are 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax-exempt organizations.

To apply, visit <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/87940-City-Of-Greenbelt>

ELECTRONICS STYROFOAM RECYCLING
Saturday, April 22
9 am - 12 pm
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent

NO PAINT RECYCLING
NO Alkaline Batteries or CFLs
NO Tube TVs

Questions?
Call (301) 474-8004

Obituaries continued

converting the Chesapeake Community College library holdings from the Dewey Decimal Classification System to that of the Library of Congress. In 1973, Kathleen went back to work as a secretary for USDA's Consumer and Food Economics Institute, retiring in 1989.

Kathleen was an original member of St. Hugh's Catholic Church, singing in the choir as a teenager even before the formal parish was established and Mass was celebrated in the Greenbelt Theatre. She joined the Sodality of the Blessed Mother as a newlywed and after retirement became active in the Ladies of Charity, serving as president. In recent years she enjoyed activities with the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement at the Washington Retreat House and at their Graymoor Motherhouse in Garrison, N.Y., and was named an Associate of the Sisters in 2013. She nursed her husband through his final years with Parkinson's Disease, and after his death in 2003, she joined the Patuxent Widowed Persons Service Group, serving as its secretary for 10 years. She also contributed occasional articles and travelogues to the Greenbelt News Review and wrote the Our Neighbors column for 10 years. For fun, in retirement she joined the Golden Age Club and went on many trips with the "Mary and Barry" travel group. In 2014, she was greatly honored by being named Greenbelt's Outstanding Citi-

zen. Kathleen loved her family, her neighbors, her many friends and colleagues in choirs, bands, church groups and clubs, and her family's many pets. She enjoyed gardening, reading, watching films and sports (especially tennis), and keeping abreast of local and international news. Kathleen was generous, kind, always helpful, and had a terrific sense of humor and laugh; she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Kathleen was devastated by the sudden death of her seventh child, Jackie McFarland, on March 22, 2023, but was able to offer comfort to her family as they processed their grief before she required a brief hospitalization and died peacefully in her third day of hospice care.

Kathleen was predeceased by her husband Henry T. McFarland, sister Joanne Kennedy, brother Robert L. Scott Jr., grandsons Mick Dodge and David Dodge, and niece Mary Kennedy Little. She is survived by her sister Rosemary Scott of Greenbelt; seven children: Karen of Greenbelt; Karl (Karen White) of Odenton; Lisa (Richard Tovar) of Lakewood, Calif.; Janis (Richard McLaughlin) of Chapel Hill, N.C.; Joan (Michael Chyatte) of Silver Spring; Anne of Greenbelt; and Helen (Joe O'Sullivan) of Sparks, Md.; grandchildren Erin, Erika and Elizabeth Thomas; Marina and Connor McFarland; Kathleen Quinn and Ryan McLaughlin; and Samantha Chy-

atte; great-grandchildren Henry Thomas, Sebastian Bohrer, Violet and Scarlet Sandrus, and Sky and Sage Quinn. She also leaves several first cousins and many Kennedy and Scott nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held at Borgwardt's Funeral Home in Beltsville on Sunday, April 30 from 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Hugh of Grenoble church on Monday, May 1 at 10 a.m. Kathleen will be buried beside her parents, husband and daughter Jackie at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood.

In remembrance, donations are suggested to the American Parkinson Disease Association or the choir of St. Hugh of Grenoble church.

Community Church Clothing Drive

The Greenbelt Community Church's next drive for clothing and small household items will occur on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m. to noon and Sunday, April 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The church is located at 1 Hillside Road.

Prepare donations by placing clothing items in plastic bags and household items in boxes that one person can carry and books in separate boxes. Oversized items cannot be accepted. Donations will be taken to Value Village, which pays the church; the church uses the money to help fund local charities.

Letters continued

democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions.

If approved, discussions regarding the scope of large capital projects (work to be performed; vendor involved) would occur in closed session. The membership may only learn of the details of the work to be performed, the cost of such work and the vendor who will be working in our homes after the contract is approved.

GHI would effectively no longer be a co-op since all major financial decisions would be in the hands of the board.

Efficiency and the cost savings from not holding special membership meetings on large contracts should not trump member involvement in decision making.

Vote "no" on this amendment. Keep your right to have a say in how our money is spent and to have a voice on major work to be performed in our homes.

Molly Lester



The Mountaintop at GAC



The Mountaintop, now playing at the Greenbelt Arts Center, features Ryan Willis, left, as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Lydia West as Camae. See ad, page 3.

PHOTO BY KRISTOFER NORTHRUP

It's time to speak up, reach out and break the stigma about mental health.

Luminis Health's new behavioral health pavilion on the campus of Doctors Community Medical Center in Lanham provides support for ages 4 and up. No matter what you're dealing with, we're here to help.

Our services include:

- A behavioral health walk-in urgent care for ages 4 and up
- Outpatient therapy and medication management
- A partial hospitalization day program
- Substance use assessment
- Inpatient psychiatric services



Learn more at
Luminis.Health/BehavioralHealthLanham
8200 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD 20706
240-757-1381



Luminis Health (formerly Anne Arundel Health System) is a nonprofit health system providing care for 1.5 million people in Anne Arundel County, Prince George's County, the Eastern Shore, and beyond. Our system encompasses nearly 100 sites of care, including Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center, J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center and Pathways in Annapolis, as well as Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center and Doctors Community Rehabilitation and Patient Care Center in Lanham.

Art Day at French Immersion School Showcases Each Student

by Sandrine Boukabara



Andrea Worthington-Garcia, art teacher at DKFI, leads the event.

On April 15, Dora Kennedy French Immersion School celebrated Art Day with a school-wide showcase. The artwork of every student – from kindergarten through 8th grade – was featured. The event was led by the school’s talented and dedicated art teacher Andrea Worthington-Garcia. Several representatives of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) provided snacks during the celebration. The school was recently named a National PTA

School of Excellence, in recognition of the partnership between its PTA and administration to enhance the wellbeing and education of the students. Omar Garcia Navarro, Garth Reynolds and several students were among contributors who made the event possible. Félicitations to all the budding artists. Sandrine Boukabara is assistant principal at Dora Kennedy French Immersion School.



Students' artwork lines the main hallway of Dora Kennedy French Immersion School.

- Photos courtesy of Dora Kennedy French Immersion School

Luminis Lifts Mask Mandate
Luminis Health has ended universal masking at all its facilities, including Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center, Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center, as well as all other clinical and non-clinical areas. Masking is optional for all staff, patients and visitors.

FY2024 Budget

Council Looks at General Government Including Management of ARPA Funds

by Deb Daniel

On March 29, the Greenbelt City Council met in a worksession to continue discussions of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget which runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Council focused on general government in the proposed FY 2024 budget including the activities and expenses of city council, administration, economic development, elections, human resources, information technology, legal counsel and community promotion. Council also discussed funds other than the General Fund, which is the main financial accounting fund for the city.

In the current year Interim City Manager Timothy George emphasized that all of the personnel under general government have worked hard to disburse American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Greenbelt organizations and persons affected by the Covid pandemic. George noted that Greenbelt is unique in putting more ARPA money toward residents and businesses than Greenbelt’s peer communities and so far, approximately 33 percent of ARPA funds go to resident and business projects. Although ARPA funds have their own budget not included in the FY 2024 proposed budget, ARPA funds activities will continue to be a big part of the general government activities for Greenbelt.

City Manager’s Report

George presented an overview of the FY 2024 proposed budget. In FY 2023, the Classification and Compensation study was made final and the recommendations will continue to be implemented in FY 2024 as employee support and efficiency are FY 2024 goals. Salaries and employee benefits are increased in the FY 2024 proposed budget due to the implementation of the Classification and Compensation Study. George identified the following as major issues to be addressed: providing adequate space for staff and city programs; retention and recruitment of staff; retention, expansion and attraction of businesses to Greenbelt; and city facility and field improvements.

George said that no new capital projects will be undertaken in the FY 2024 proposed budget. Some of the FY 2023 capital projects, like building maintenance and road paving, are slow to complete due to difficulties obtaining supplies which are sought by many municipalities. George is proposing the use of some of the city’s Capital Reserve funds, part of the city’s unassigned fund balance, to fund and complete capital projects such as building

General Government Expenditures		
Budget Account (page of Budget book)	FY2024 Proposed \$	% change FY2024 Proposed from FY 2023 Adopted
Council (69)	\$187,200	13.00%
Administration (71)	\$1,197,400	15.00%
Economic Development (73)	\$220,200	21.00%
Election (74)	\$80,000	9.00%
Human Resources (77)	\$497,100	24.00%
Finance (79)	\$933,000	3.00%
Information Technology (81)	\$967,400	0.05%
Legal Council (82)	\$185,000	-135.00%
Municipal Building (83)	\$112,200	3.50%
Community Promotion (85)	\$430,200	0.05%
Public Officers Assoc.(86)	\$71,700	0.00%
Totals	\$4,881,400	0.06%
General Government \$FY2024 Proposed Budget (50)		

maintenance and road paving.

Expenditures

George proposed increasing the annual salary of councilmembers from \$10,000 to \$12,000 (20 percent increase) and the mayor’s compensation from \$12,000 to \$14,000 (about 17 percent increase) per year. Councilmember Judith Davis noted that the FY 2024 budget year is an election year and that means a raise for council can be in the proposed budget because council pay can only be increased for the next elected council.

Administration, Finance

George reported that administration and finance had big projects, including the migration to new finance and payroll systems and overseeing ARPA programs implementation. A big goal in the FY 2024 proposed budget is that the city will develop a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) program and develop citywide DEI training for all staff.

Finance has managed a migration to new accounting software and procedures. Finance is responsible for the collection of taxes and other city funds, payment of all city obligations, management and investment of city funds, accounting of all financial transactions, preparation of payroll, purchasing of goods

and services, and data processing. Proposed goals for the FY 2024 budget year include converting paper files to digital files and working with county representatives to convert the city’s levy book into a searchable database.

Economic Development

Economic Development Manager Kevin Simpson has been meeting with Greenbelt’s business leaders, helping them to recover from the Covid pandemic. CARES and Economic Development are partnering together and with the county to create workforce development programs and training, to provide education scholarships and to link Greenbelt residents to Greenbelt jobs and county workforce development programs.

Election Board

Regular city council elections are held the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in odd-numbered calendar years. Special elections may be set from time to time by council for bond issue referendums, charter amendments petitioned to referendum and other matters. The turnout rate was 18 percent in 2021 elections. Davis noted that turnout is best when there are a large number of vacancies

See BUDGET, page 12

Catch the Buzz!

Sunday, April 23 3-5 p.m.

Heifer Fair at Greenbelt Community Church UCC

We’re raising funds and awareness about the importance of bees, featuring a beeswax candle craft, honey-focused bake sale, free exhibits, puzzles, and activities, as well as, weather permitting, an observation hive.

1 Hillside Road

Keep items out of landfills, while helping us raise funds to serve those in need in our community!

Drop Off April 22-23

Greenbelt Community Church
(rear parking lot)
1 Hillside Road

Saturday, April 22
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 23
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Items should be placed in kitchen-size trash bags or small boxes. Box books separately.
No oversized items can be accepted.

Vendor Show

Saturday, April 29, 2023

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Auxiliary of the
Glenn Dale Fire Association

11900 Glenn Dale Blvd.,
Glenn Dale, MD 20769

Council Hears Advisory Board Reports from ERB and CRAB

by Susan Taylor

Members of the Greenbelt City Council regularly send referrals or requests for research and information to city staff and volunteer advisory boards. At the March 22 worksession, Mayor Pro Tem Kristin Weaver recognized the ongoing work by city staff and advisory boards who took the time to take these requests so seriously.

Members of the Employee Relations Board (ERB) and the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) presented their reports on collective bargaining and employee grievance/appeal processes that evening. Worksessions exist to receive and discuss information, but no official decisions are made.

Weaver, acting as mayor pro tem until the online arrival of Mayor Emmett Jordan, was joined in person by Councilmembers Ric Gordon and Rodney Roberts, with Judith Davis, Colin Byrd and Silke Pope connecting online. Members of the public are encouraged to participate in all meetings, either in person or online.

ERB Chair Retires

Jordan and Davis each took a moment to thank Kevin Murphy, retiring chair of the ERB, on behalf of council for his long service to Greenbelt, and recognized the importance of his institutional knowledge.

A five-member group, the ERB is tasked with reviewing policies, conducting hearings, offering recommendations to council and making decisions regarding classified permanent employees of the city.

Murphy expressed that the board, in their deliberations, “more often than not settles on unanimous decisions which I think is helpful to the city and employees.”

Grievance and Appeals

The processes by which city employees file appeals of personnel actions or grievances have not been updated since 2002. ERB and council agreed that details of these processes and timelines need to be made clearer and more accessible.

Interim City Manager Tim George has planned to budget funds for a comprehensive review of the City Code, and council is considering voting on funds to update the Code of Personnel and

Administrative Regulations. Murphy stated that the ERB recommends details of the processes be posted on physical and electronic bulletin boards, and “distributed to classified employees at times they receive general information about human resource policies.”

Collective Bargaining

Currently, only the police department has a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the city, and the ERB is functioning, in most cases, as the arbiter.

In March of 2020, then-mayor Byrd sent a referral, which he subsequently withdrew, to investigate extending collective bargaining to all city employees. Jamie Krauk of CRAB offered detailed information on CBAs of comparable local jurisdictions. “CRAB has as always prided itself on being responsive and thorough,” yet chose not to offer specific recommendations since the referral had been withdrawn, said Krauk.

The only local jurisdiction offering collective bargaining through the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to employees outside police departments is Bowie, which is larger in terms of both employees and budget.

ERB’s Murphy reported that both city charter and code refer only to police collective bargaining, and the code has “very detailed rules and regulations.” As for extending CBAs to non-police employees, Murphy stated that “right now, it’s not in the law” and would require at least a charter amendment to begin the research by city staff and boards into more details.

Pros and Cons

Currently there is no request for collective bargaining by city employees. Roberts noted, “You would think everyone would want collective bargaining ... it can be good for some people and not good for others.”

Weaver pointed to pay increases currently being considered in light of a recent compensation study. In this case the city may have “less flexibility” under a CBA. Contracts would need to be re-negotiated rather than raises simply implemented.

Although the referral was withdrawn, council expressed appreciation for the labor of members of CRAB, ERB and staff.

Local Girl Scouts Build Cat Bridges for Animal Shelter

by Holly Wheeler



PHOTO BY KENT YORK

Girl Scouts and leaders display a cat bridge they built for the animal shelter. Holding the bridge, from left: Claire Aolga and Maggie York. Underneath the bridge: Kira Wilkinson. Behind the bridge: Becky Castleman, Brooklyn Scott, Sadie Young, Emerson Gary, Faith Holden, Willa Stark, Holly Wheeler, Anna Grim, Georgina Wilkinson and Lien Gareri.

Thanks to Greenbelt Girl Scout Troop 23007, the cats waiting for adoption at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter now have a better quality of life. In spring 2022, the Girl Scouts custom-built two cat bridges for the two cat rooms at the animal shelter. Although the scouts’ primary motivation was a service project to help the Animal Shelter, they also used the opportunity to earn their Woodworker Badge with the oversight of troop parent Georgina Wilkinson.

“Girl Scout Troop 23007 always comes in and does a wonderful job helping our shelter. They’re always open and willing to do projects we need for the animal shelter. This time around we suggested cat bridges, and they stepped up to the challenge,” noted Nelly Ortiz, animal control supervisor and manager of the shelter. After delays caused by staffing shortages, both cat bridges were installed in February 2023. The cats and kittens at the shelter immediately began using the bridges, providing the adults more separation and safe, quiet places to rest and the kittens with exciting heights to explore.

“Not only are the cats loving something new to do, when people come to visit our cats for adoption they also get a chance to see the cats be playful and happy. We are so thankful for Troop 23007 and everything they do for the animals,” said Ortiz.

Holly Wheeler is the troop leader of Girl Scout Troop 23007.



PHOTO BY GEORGINA WILKINSON



PHOTO BY HOLLY WHEELER

Cat bridges built by Girl Scout Troop 23007 for the Greenbelt Animal Shelter



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

From left, Amy Hansen, Mary Lou Williamson and her daughter Carolyn enjoy the blooms at the Williamson garden party on April 16.

National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month, and this April marks the 10th anniversary of the installation of the Poetry Moment box outside the New Deal Café. To celebrate, Friends of the New Deal Café Arts is sponsoring a Poetry Moment reception on Sunday, April 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the New Deal Café.

Poets whose works have been featured in the box will be reading a few selections; there will also be open-mic time.

Information for submission of poems can be found at newdealcafe.com/events/poetry-moment.

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Honor Flight Network Brings Veterans to Greenbelt Legion

by Butch Hicks



Honor Flight participants at the Greenbelt American Legion demonstrate national allegiance in response to program speaker encouragement.

- Photos by Butch Hicks

Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 hosted a visit by more than 60 Puerto Rican veterans and associates on April 12. The veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam were participating in the Honor Flight Network. The Department of Defense describes Honor Flights as an opportunity to honor and thank the Americans who secured our freedom by bringing them to the nation’s capital to see the memorials that commemorate their service.

Mike Moore, Post 136 Adjutant and former Post commander, said Post 136 was proud to provide a trip respite for the veterans. “Post 136 and the Greenbelt community honor veterans during annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies,” he said. “This was another opportunity for the American Legion family and the Greenbelt and surrounding communities to show appreciation for veterans’ service to their country.”

Post 136 staff and community visitors greeted the two busloads of veterans with many taking the opportunity to say, “Thank you for your service.”

The veterans’ luncheon, served by Mission Barbecue – restaurants that support military, police, firefighters and first responders – was preceded by greetings from Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Weaver and Councilmember Ric Gordon. Weaver, demonstrating her Spanish language skills, shared lunch with several veterans, discussed their military service and expressed the community’s appreciation for their service. Gordon, joined by a Spanish language interpreter, addressed the large contingent of veterans and said it was an honor to have them visiting Greenbelt. He too was active visiting tables, sharing food and discussing the veterans’ service.

Jose Olmos represented Puerto

Rican congressional leadership at the event and acknowledged their appreciation of the veterans who answered duty’s call. U.S. Representative Jenniffer González-Colón, the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in the U.S. House of Representatives, shared her message for the veterans participating in the event. She said in her communiqué that she was proud that her office took part in honoring the veterans during their Honor Flight visit to D.C. “Our veterans and their families deserve every recognition for their courage, and outstanding achievements in defense of the ideals of the United States of America. The Puerto Rican veterans recognized by the Honor Flight Network who served in the U.S. Army in World War II, in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, belong to a long line of American citizens who did not hesitate to step into the cauldron of war when duty called,” said González-Colón. “I am beyond grateful and proud of these heroes who have so selflessly served our Nation. I also thank the American Legion for their unwavering support to our veterans, and for assisting them during this trip to make it memorable,” she said.

Maryland was well represented by Joseph Pruden, a veteran himself and veterans program coordinator for Rep. Glenn Ivey, representing the Fourth District of Maryland. Pruden extended Rep. Ivey’s appreciation for the veterans’ service and shared Ivey’s support for veterans. “I am so grateful for the many sacrifices our servicemen and women have made for this country. Our veterans put their limbs and lives on the line to protect the liberties that we hold dear ... Our nation is safer and stronger when we care for our veterans who have dedicated their lives to protecting

us...,” he said.

Post 136 Commander, Greg Gigliotti, said the reception was an opportunity for the Greenbelt American Legion and the American Legion overall to demonstrate how Post 136 and the American Legion could support Honor Flights. “It was another opportunity to show how well we communicate, collaborate and coordinate addressing any task. The Greenbelt American Legion Family and the Greenbelt community comprise a team capable of local and national veteran support,” said Gigliotti.



Jose Olmos, representing U.S. Representative Jenniffer González-Colón of Puerto Rico, speaks at the Honor Flight Network veterans event at Greenbelt American Legion Post 136.



Maryland was well represented by Joseph Pruden, a veteran himself and veterans program coordinator for Rep. Glenn Ivey. Pruden extended Congressman Ivey’s appreciation for the veterans’ service.



PHOTO BY MARGARET LACY

Councilmember Ric Gordon, joined by a Spanish language interpreter, addressed the large contingent of veterans and said it was an honor to have them visit the Greenbelt community. He was active visiting tables, sharing food and discussing the veterans’ service.

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JUSTICE continued from page 1

engaged in court watching two full days a week.

The mission of Court Watch is “to hold prosecutors, judges and other arms of the criminal legal system accountable for their actions and treatment of Maryland residents.” Their motto is “Injustice Happens in Empty Courtrooms.” Court Watch PG, headed by Dr. Carmen Johnson, is a member of the umbrella organization, Life After Release.

Monitoring Bail Review

Court Watch volunteers are trained to listen and serve as witnesses to what happens in bail review hearings. They are taught the legalese necessary to follow judicial proceedings. While watching bail review hearings may seem insignificant in relation to the judicial system, this review is the first contact that an accused person has before a judge. A majority of the people seen by volunteers at the bail hearings are Black, Brown and poor. Court watchers seek to ensure a degree of equity and accountability in the criminal legal system.

A Court Watcher’s Day

At 9 a.m. on her Court Watch day, Eaton checks an app to find out what the docket is for the day and the case numbers, from a messenger sent to Upper Marlboro early each day to get the information. Eaton then uses the Maryland Judiciary Case Search website to find out more about each accused person, where they live, details of the charges and whether or not a commissioner has determined probable cause.

When a person is first incarcerated, they go before a commissioner, an officer of the court who makes an initial determination based on the charges as to whether the accused is a danger to society. If they are not, the commissioner may order them to pay a bond and allow them to go home. Eaton researches each case before the hearing to focus on listening and taking notes, since the process moves very quickly, lasting only about 6 to 7 minutes. Listening and taking notes is the main work of the volunteers as they hear the arguments on both sides, see the accused and hear testimony on their character.

Audio-only Access

The volunteers began watching the proceedings on Zoom during the pandemic. Access via Zoom was available to both volunteers and family members until August 2022, when the court withdrew access and changed to audio only. This makes it more difficult to identify who is saying what. Character witnesses cannot always be heard as they speak from their places in the audience. Supporters and loved ones struggle to hear and comprehend what is occurring. There is state legislation pending to reimplement Zoom during court sessions.

Keeping a Database

Court Watch volunteers take notes on everything that happens, especially the arguments for or against release by the state’s attorney and the judge’s ruling. These notes will be critical during Court Watch’s daily debriefing session immediately after arraignments are completed.

After the discussion of every case, volunteers fill out forms that classify the types of cases reviewed, such as citizens’ complaints, domestic violence or crimes of poverty. This and other



Jade Eaton

PHOTO COURTESY JADE EATON

detailed information is then entered into Court Watch’s database. Eaton says they flag cases that need further attention because of issues with the arresting officer, the judge or pre-trial services.

Court Watch monitors the level of bail set since, according to Maryland law, a judge cannot assign a higher bail than an individual can afford. The organization also determines if the arresting officer listed in the case report has a problematic record. They consult the Graham Report, which lists officers who have repeatedly used excessive force.

Court Watch’s Accountability Committee pulls up the flagged cases in the database and decides whether action needs to be taken on each. When action is called for, an accountability letter is sent to the supervisor of the individual involved, such as the chief judge or the police captain. These letters, in redacted form, may be read by the public on the Court Watch website.

Pre-trial Court Case

Court Watch is so concerned about the pre-trial process being used that they joined as one of the supporters of a lawsuit against the county Office of Pre-Trial Services, asserting that the process is unconstitutional. The case, which survived an initial motion to dismiss by the county, is pending.

Mental Health Support

Court watchers have observed that some 20 to 25 percent of the individuals brought before the courts for bail hearings have mental health issues. Court Watch has seen that under the flawed, poorly designed procedures accused persons who suffer from mental health problems may lose access to their medicines or therapy. Court Watch follows up with the Department of Corrections and the Public Defender’s office to ensure that an individual receives required medications and therapy while waiting for their court date.

Eaton has come to strongly believe that the criminal justice system should not be the mechanism through which people receive mental health services, and that an alternative model needs to be developed.

Domestic Violence

Court Watch also keeps track of domestic violence cases, which are particularly challenging. Ea-

ton has seen several cases where a person makes a complaint without being given information about the consequences that will follow. The police are obligated to act on the complaint and arrest the offender, which is often not the intervention the victim is seeking. Often the person who filed the complaint will ask that the offender be released, but at that point they have no power to cancel the arrest. They may not have realized their complaint would lead to arrest, missed days of work and other consequences for the family. Eaton would like to see the person filing the complaint provided with more information about other domestic violence services available to them prior to a complaint being filed.

A Lens into Lives, Issues

Eaton believes court watching provides a lens into the real-life situations of marginalized people and neighborhoods targeted by the police. Volunteers see carjacking and gun violation cases, domestic violence and mental health challenges of the working poor. It’s led Eaton to question whether the criminal justice system is really the best way to handle these issues.

Life After Release advocates for new policies and legislation with county and state legislators. One recommendation is that virtual audiovisual access should be provided for most state court cases. Eaton states that everyone is supposed to have access to the courts, and, with the availability of current technology, people should not have to travel to Upper Marlboro to attend court hearings.

Howard University law students have worked with Court Watch to observe virtually and in person in the court room. Eaton pointed out that court watching allows law students to observe how the criminal justice system actually operates.

To volunteer with Court Watch, one does not have to be a lawyer, just someone willing to listen, learn and take notes.

Search for Equal Justice

Eaton is well aware of the negative impacts of gun violence and other crime on communities and of the need for public safety, but Court Watch has given her insight into how the criminal justice system itself may have harmful impacts on people and communities. The criminal legal system should not rest on targeting various neighborhoods and groups under the guise of public safety, she says. Equal justice for all, Eaton believes, should be the reality and not just a motto.

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GAFC continued from page 1

the work daily to “continue to move forward and complete the project,” says Shafer.

Impact on Opening?

The Greenbelt pool was the first public pool in the state of Maryland. Residents look forward to the annual Memorial Day weekend opening.

Since work on the pool deck will be completed first, a timely opening is anticipated. Even if the remediation work on the wall proves more complicated than

feared, Interim City Manager Tim George said “the outdoor pool can operate with no risk at all” if not completed by Memorial Day.

New Filter Awaits

Public Works staff also assisted in the delivery of the new filter, currently housed in an undamaged area of the facility. Work on installation of the new filter is expected later this year according to Stephen Parks, GAFC supervisor.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN PARKS, GAFC

Work begins on readying the pool deck at GAFC for summer.

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Referendum Petition.

Let council know your views!

On April 11, City Council amended

the city charter by 4 to 3 to allow

a non-resident City Manager.

Council can now waive the City

Manager residency requirement

applicant-by-applicant.

If change is needed to City Manager

residency rules, it should be consistent,

not potentially discriminatory.

Sign the petition!

Reject Council’s charter change

so voters can decide.

Email CityManager2023@gmail.com and find

out how to sign the petition.

Volunteer help is gratefully accepted.

More information on the website.

<https://citymanagerreferendumpetition.godaddysites.com/>

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred April 10 to 16. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when incidents were reported.

Robberies

On April 13 at 12:01 p.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a teenage boy walking back to Eleanor Roosevelt High School after picking up lunch was approached by another teenager wearing a loose-fitting skull cap who demanded his property and began punching the victim. A second man then got out of a Hyundai Sonata and began taking the victim's property. Both men then got into the car and drove away. It was later determined the car was stolen. The victim had minor injuries.

On April 15 at 3:59 p.m. near 6200 Springhill Drive, a man was attempting to unlock his apartment when a Black man, wearing a black shirt, red sleeves and gray pants, pointed a black pistol to his head and demanded his car keys and cellphone. The man complied, and his gray 2014 Honda Accord (Md. plate 1FF0521) was stolen.

Fighting

On April 11 at 11:19 a.m. near 100 Centerway, there was a fight between teenagers.

On April 13 at 4:55 p.m. near 200 Lakeside Drive, a fight between middle-school aged children was referred to the school.

Disorderly Conduct

On April 13 at 8:01 p.m. near 7800 Walker Drive, after a credit card was declined, a customer became irate, threw a display at an employee and left the area.

Controlled Substance Arrest

On April 14 at 11:10 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Frankfort Drive, a traffic stop led to the arrest of a 19-year-old man for possession of over \$7,000 worth of a controlled substance.

DUI Arrest

A DUI arrest occurred April 11 at 6:42 p.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and Pontiac Street.

Missing Persons Found

On April 12, a 15-year-old girl missing from Howard County was found near 6000 Springhill Drive, and a 12-year-old girl missing from Montgomery County was found near Cherrywood Lane and Greenbelt Metro Drive. On April 12 near 7800 Vanity Fair Drive, an elderly woman wandered away from her residence and was soon located. On April 13 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a man reported missing was later found.

Fraud

Check fraud occurred near 7500 Greenway Center Drive on April 11 and on April 12. Identity theft occurred on April 10 near 7800 Hanover Parkway. Credit card fraud occurred on April 14 near 100 Hedgewood Drive.

Theft

Commercial theft occurred on April 10 at 1:26 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, and at 10:43 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road. On April 16 at 3:11 p.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, property was stolen from a residence, with no signs of forced entry.

Vehicle Crimes Attempted Auto Theft

On April 13, two Kias showed damage consistent with attempted theft: near 100 Centerway, a 2016 Soul had a broken window and damaged ignition, and near Ridge Road, a 2017 Sportage had a damaged steering column.

Stolen Vehicles

This week, four Hyundais and a Kia were stolen: a Sonata (Md. plate 2ED9369) April 11 near 6100 Breezewood Court; a silver 2016 Sonata (La. plate 896AZK) April 12 near 6300 Ivy Lane; an Elantra (Md. plate 8FF5029) left running, unlocked and unattended April 14 at 5:34 p.m. near 6900 Hanover Parkway; a Sonata (Md. plate 5DM3345) April 16 near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive; and a gray 2016 Kia Optima (Md. plate T0905882) April 16 near 6200 Springhill Court.

Theft From Auto

License plates and gas tank lids were targeted this week: a front tag was stolen April 10 near 7900 Mandan Road; a rear tag was stolen April 13 near 7400 Greenway Center Drive; and on April 15 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, the month sticker was stolen off the rear tag and gasoline was siphoned from the

car, damaging the gas tank lid. On April 13 near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive, another gas tank lid was pried open and damaged by a sharp object.

On April 10 car windows were broken, but nothing was taken near 8000 Mandan Road, near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, near 9100 Springhill Lane and near 6000 Springhill Drive.

On April 11 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, all four tires were stolen from a 2022 Honda Accord. On April 13 near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a car window was broken and property was stolen. On April 14 near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, a car window was broken and property was stolen; near 6300 Golden Triangle Drive, two cars had windows broken and property stolen; and near 7200 Hanover Drive, a window was broken, but nothing was stolen. On April 15 near 7400 Greenbelt Road, a 2019 Kia Optima had the driver door lock punched out and the cover missing, but nothing was taken. On April 16 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a car window was broken, but nothing was taken; near 8900 Edmonston Road, a car window was broken and property was stolen; and near 5800 Cherrywood Terrace, a car window was broken, ignition damaged and property stolen from a 2008 Honda Accord.

Stolen Vehicle Found

On April 10 at 5:10 p.m. near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a stolen 2020 Jeep Compass was found.



More Events

Talk on Astronomical Occultations Thursday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet on Thursday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. Drs. Joan and David Dunham will explain the importance of astronomical occultations and how to observe them. The lecture will be followed by an actual observing session of a lunar occultation of a ninth magnitude star. This is a hybrid in-person/virtual event. It is free and open to the public. A Zoom link and details of the observing session will be posted before the event at greenbeltastro.org/events.

Hike With Paul Downs

Earth Day is Saturday, April 22 – a good day to take a hike in the forest and a walk down memory lane with Paul Downs. This will be history not found in the Tugwell Room. Downs will talk about his memories of growing up in Greenbelt and how he bonded with and defended the woods of Greenbelt. Find out why we have pumpkins in the forest, how the forest was spared from development and why we must continue to protect it. As president of the Committee to Save the Green Belt, Downs, along with Rodney Roberts and others, led the way to save our forest from being clear-cut and developed. He created the Children's Pumpkin Walk (now just the Pumpkin Walk) and brought the voice of the community to sway the city to reclaim the Green Belt and protect it. For his efforts he was named the 2017 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen.

Meet at the parking lot of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. at 1 Hamilton Place at 10 a.m. To RSVP email suzanbwild@gmail.com.

As always, there will be refreshments following the walk – in the tradition of the Committee to Save the Green Belt.

Fighting Antisemitism Today, Zoom Session

On Sunday, April 23, at 7 p.m., experts from the Anti-Defamation League will provide an interactive session on antisemitism today. They will discuss the historical background of antisemitism, how antisemitism manifests today and present local examples and images of antisemitism. The session will also provide time and reflection on how to take personal action to combat antisemitism, as individuals and as a community.

Email socialaction@mishkantorah.org for more info or for the Zoom link to attend.



Playground Plogging: Safe & Sparkly Spaces

On Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, the Greenbelt Plogs, a RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) initiative, will be cleaning up around the many city playgrounds in all of Greenbelt, making them safe and sparkly.

Those interested should contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com and let him know where they'll be plogging, or ask where ploggers are needed, so as to coordinate efforts and spread the wealth of engagement.

What's plogging? Perhaps literally, it's "pick up litter while jogging," but more broadly it means people making outdoor spaces cleaner while they are enjoying them. It's a fun and engaging way to clean up litter from the streets, paths, streams, ponds and playgrounds while raising awareness about the importance of preventing stormwater pollution.

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BUDGET continued from page 7

or a large number of candidates. Since Greenbelt West has grown substantially, Mayor Emmett Jordan wondered if a new precinct will be added. Davis thought the county drew the precincts. She asked if the Board of Elections had contracted with vendors for the upcoming election and George responded no. Jordan emphasized that council does not run the election – that is the job of the city Board of Elections and the city clerk.

Human Resources

Davis questioned Director of Human Resources Dawane Martinez about the decrease in insurance costs proposed for the FY 2024 budget year. Martinez explained that insurance costs have stayed the same this year after increasing in previous years due to closer cooperation with insurance vendors on programs to prevent employee injuries and other programs resulting in discounts for Greenbelt.

Information Technology

In FY 2023, Jordan noted that Greenbelt had a ratio of 39 IT users per IT employee compared to the lower ratios for Greenbelt’s peer cities. He wondered if IT needed more staff. Dale Worley, director of information technology, said his people were very efficient. Worley discussed the progress of security camera installations in areas identified by the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Police and Public Works are also involved in these projects. Worley noted that more of Greenbelt’s IT services have moved to the “cloud” but the city’s bandwidth had not increased significantly.

Legal Council

One of the biggest changes was reducing the budget for legal counsel from \$435 thousand in the FY 2023 adopted budget down to \$185 thousand in the FY 2024 proposed budget as legal assistance needs have been minimal over the last two or three years. The decrease is the result of less need for services and changing the billing agreement from retainer to as-needed services.

Municipal Building

George has interviewed four architecture firms to design spaces that the city might use in providing workspace for staff. Options investigated will include an expansion of the existing Municipal Building, constructing a new addition or tearing down part or all of the Municipal Building and building a new facility in its place. George is also considering renting in the Granite Building in Roosevelt Center.

Community Promotion

Public Information & Communications Coordinator Chondria Andrews discussed the distribution of 250 welcome kits to apartment complexes and homeowner associations. Promotional materials from Greenbelt organizations to be included in those welcome kits can be given to Andrews. Greenbelt’s presence on social media (including Facebook and Twitter) has increased. Councilmember Ric Gordon suggested using Eleanor Roosevelt High School and University of Maryland students to work on the social media sites as they are current with new technologies. Councilmember Kristin Weaver said that text alerts are very useful to her. One of the Public Information goals for the FY 2024 proposed budget is to develop an emergency communications plan.

Public Officers Associations

This account provides for the membership expenses of the city and its advisory boards and committees in regional, state and national associations (Maryland Municipal League, National League of Cities, Council of Governments and other organizations). Funds are also budgeted for attendance at conferences by board and committee members.

Special Funds

Special revenue funds are set up for special purposes, often funded by grants or donations for a specific purpose and include the Cemetery Fund, Debt Service Fund, Replacement Fund and Special Projects Fund (Police, Greenbelt Assistance in Living, Greenbelt CARES, Greenbelt Access Television and other projects in IT and the arts).

The Agency Fund includes funds received as contributions for programs such as Greenbelt CARES and the Good Samaritan Fund, as well as monies forfeited from criminal activities. The Enterprise Fund contains the financial activity of Green Ridge House, the city’s apartment complex for seniors and persons with special needs. The city maintains a number of historic and protected cemeteries with the Cemetery Fund. Resident Frank Gervasi noted that these cemeteries are an important piece of the city’s history with possible unmarked graves from enslaved persons. The Replacement Fund is used to replace aging vehicles and other equipment. The Debt Service Fund is used for the payment of the principal and interest on the city’s outstanding debt.

The city FY 2024 proposed budget is available online at Greenbeltmd.gov with a search for Budget.

CHARTER continued from page 1

voted. In contrast, in 2021 there were 15,047 registered voters, 2,675 (17.7 percent) of whom voted. In order to place the referendum on the ballot, Meetre and others will have to obtain the signatures of more registered voters than actually showed up to vote in the last election. The rules for amending city charters are established by state government and are outside of the city’s control.

Meetre also questioned why the recruiting brochure prepared by the city’s search firm Baker Tilly did not mention the charter requirement that the manager live in Greenbelt. At the time that this was prepared, council had not yet publicly raised the issue of the residency requirement.

Meetre called upon Councilmember Kristen Weaver to withdraw the charter amendment resolution and for the city to implement a referendum on the residency issue. Council did not take her advice.

Bill Orleans, a Greenbelter who attended both public hearings, said most speakers at those hearings favored retaining the residency requirement.

Council Takes

Prior to opening up the floor for public comment, councilmembers discussed their views on the amendment. Councilmembers Rodney Roberts and Judith Davis charged that the change was being made to benefit one person, presumably the interim city manager, which Roberts termed wrong and unethical. Councilmember Ric Gordon and Mayor Emmett Jordan denied this. Jordan said that council has a diverse pool of applicants to choose from with several who live in the local area.

In an email, Jordan told the News Review that Baker Tilly, the executive search firm assisting the city “received 70 applications to date (the search is still open). Twenty-six of those applicants were residents of the region. None were Greenbelt residents.

“After some initial screening work by Baker Tilly, 12 “qualified” applications have been forwarded to Council that meet our stated criteria. Six of these are residents of the region. Others are previous residents.”

Roberts said the resolution was a bad idea for many reasons. Having a city manager “living the same life” as residents, he said, has helped make Greenbelt a well-managed city. If the resolution does not go to referendum, he claimed citizens lose their right to have final say on the charter. He further argued that the city manager can have more effect on the city for good or bad than a councilmember. He objected to the omission of the residency requirement from the recruiting brochure.

Weaver noted that most of the people she spoke with had not considered the issue or were not familiar with the requirement. Only one person she spoke with opposed the charter change, 10 were generally supportive while another wanted codified guidelines rather than leaving the issue solely up to council’s discretion.

She acknowledged that it would have been better if council had considered the residency issue earlier.

See CHARTER, page 15

At the Library

Storytimes

Friday, April 21, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8031869.

Saturday, April 22, 11 a.m., ages 3 to 5. French-English Ready to Read storytime. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8030270.

Monday, April 24, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8030314.

Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8030323.

Teen Action Group

Wednesday, April 26, 4:30 p.m. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8039631.

VolunTEENs

Prince George’s County teens in grades 6 to 12 can earn student service learning (SSL) hours through participation in the Library’s VolunTEEN program. Teens may submit the information needed for each VolunTEEN prompt in Beanstack via the link at pgcmls.info/teens. All of the necessary information must be provided to earn SSL hours through the VolunTEEN program up to a maximum of 12 SSL hours.



Clean-up, Campfire At Greenbelt Park

Greenbelt Park is celebrating Earth Day on Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. until noon. Lots of help is needed to clean up the park’s front entrance and the Still Creek watershed. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

That evening at 7:30 p.m., join Greenbelt musician and folklorist Katy Gaughan in the park for an Earth Day celebration of rhythmic drumming. Feel one’s inner natural rhythm and beat it out on the drum to resound through the forest, expressing a connection to nature and the vitality of spring.

All campfire programs are held in the B Loop in the Greenbelt Park campground.



Flowers are blooming at Mary Lou Williamson's garden party.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW



Late afternoon, April 10, at the Big Playground. Parents and children gather to chat and play on a warm spring day at this popular playground near the Library.

PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

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Council Acts on Early Voting; Municipal Building Expansion

by Diane Oberg

Despite the usual friction among its members, the Greenbelt City Council managed to pack a lot of action into a nearly three-hour meeting on Tuesday, April 11. In addition to the charter amendment reported separately, council awarded a contract to develop architectural design options for the Municipal Building, approved two American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded programs and approved a reduction in the number of early voting days available in the fall election.

Municipal Building

Council awarded a contract to develop architectural design options for expanding the Municipal Building to AVANTurs LLC at a cost not to exceed \$74,200 plus reimbursables (usually travel costs and things like extra copies of plans and such). Interim City Manager Tim George expects that reimbursables should be low as the firm is based in Bethesda. AVANTurs is a woman-owned small business operating in Maryland and its design team includes two Maryland minority-owned businesses, including one in Prince George’s County.

The city had previously conducted a space study to examine whether it could better accommodate its staff by reallocating the space already owned by the city. However, council eventually determined that the city had outgrown its current space and the city issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in January to develop options. According to the recommendation memo from George and Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby, nine firms responded. After staff review, four firms were short-listed and scored based on their proposals and subsequent interviews. AVANTurs was the second lowest cost (by \$4,700), but scored higher against the city’s criteria.

According to the AVANTurs proposal, the firm will develop new site plans for three options: 1) expanding existing footprints with two-story sections totaling 8,000 square feet, 2) adding an 8,000-square-foot two-story wing to the existing building and 3) demolishing the existing building and replacing it with a new 20,000-square-foot building and providing estimates of the cost of each. George said the goal of the project, which will be ARPA-funded, is to give council and citizens an idea of the likely costs.

The motion passed on a 5-1 vote. Councilmember Colin Byrd, who had been participating remotely, had left the meeting by the time this issue was discussed. Councilmember Rodney Roberts voted no, saying the city should first determine how much it is willing to spend. Councilmember Silke Pope countered that council needs to know how much it needs before deciding to proceed with more detailed planning.

Early Voting

Council unanimously approved changing Section 8-13 of the city code to eliminate most of the early voting period for city elections. Board of Elections Co-Chair Steven Gilbert said that in the last election, 2,500 citizens voted in person, 2,000 mailed in

their ballots and a few hundred voted early. Early voting, however, stretched through most of October, with few or no voters per day.

Under the proposed changes, early voting would occur only on the weekend before Election Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Voters may cast their ballots at any polling place regardless of residence.

After the vote, Byrd questioned whether this change could be made in this manner rather than through the normal legislative process of first and second reading. Although this issue was not resolved at the meeting, it seems likely that further action will be needed.

Business Assistance

Council approved the Business Infrastructure Fund Grant Program, another of the city’s ARPA-funded projects with an allocation of \$500,000. Businesses may receive up to \$50,000 each. Economic Development Manager Kevin Simpson said that only businesses in commercial office spaces are eligible. The program is open to businesses of all sizes, including cooperatives. Operating expenses are not covered by this grant.

According to the staff memorandum, the grants are intended to “support businesses with building renovations or improvements and purchasing the replacement or expansion of operational equipment to ensure economic recovery, resiliency and sustainability.” Projects funded by these grants must be completed within one year of grant receipt. Any unexpended funds must be returned to the city.

Workforce Development

Council also approved implementation of the Workforce Development Scholarship Program

which offers up to \$10,000 to persons 21 years or older who have lived in Greenbelt for at least six months, for their educational needs, for pursuing a new career or enhancing their current career path. The program is also open to those enrolled in Greenbelt GED, English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or Workforce Development programs for six months or longer.

A separate program was already approved to assist current or recent high school students less than 21 years old.

Administrative Reports

Pope asked about the aerators in Greenbelt Lake, which are not currently operating. George said that one was broken and the other had had a turtle stuck in it. (The turtle survived.) Public Works’ assessment is that the aerators are no longer needed. Pope asked for confirmation of that assessment as the city had previously been told that they are beneficial for the aquatic life in the lake.

Proclamations

Mayor Emmett Jordan presented Chief Richard Bowers with a proclamation declaring the week of April 9 to be the National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Greenbelt and specifically honored Communications Supervisor Alicia Williams and Communications Specialists Jessica Houle, Sarah Gignac, Samantha Keifline, Shar-nise Hawkins-Graham and Emily Salazar for their “dependable and exceptional service during the past year.”

Jordan also presented proclamations declaring April as Autism Awareness Month in Greenbelt and recognizing the 53rd anniversary of Earth Day.

Luminis Health Opens Inpatient Psychiatric Unit at New Pavilion

To meet the historic and growing need for mental health services in Prince George’s County, Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC) has opened an inpatient psychiatric unit at its new Behavioral Health Pavilion located on the hospital’s Lanham campus. With the addition of 16 adult inpatient psychiatric beds, the continuum of care expanded and currently operating on-site services gain additional support.

“When Luminis Health was formed, we made a commitment to increase quality, accessible, safe healthcare in Prince George’s County,” said Tori Bayless, CEO of Luminis Health. “Since 2019, we have invested more than \$85 million at LHDCMC, including opening the new Behavioral Health Pavilion to provide additional much needed services to the communities we serve.” In the summer of 2022, Luminis Health opened the first floor of the Pavilion and currently provides the following services: an Outpatient Mental Health Center to provide therapy and medication management for adults; a Behavioral Health Walk-In Urgent Care for non-emergent behavioral health concerns for ages 4 years old and up, available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and a Psychiatric Day Treatment Program, which includes a mental health partial-hospitalization program and an intensive outpatient program for adults and adolescents.

“Since opening the first floor of the new Behavioral Health Pavilion, we’ve treated more than 300 patients in our outpatient programs,” said Dr. Aliya Jones, executive medical director of Behavioral Health at Luminis Health. “Our new inpatient psychiatric unit on the second floor will provide specialized treatment around the clock for adults who need intense mental health and critical psychiatric care.”

With the completion of the Behavioral Health Pavilion, Luminis Health is now launching a \$300 million capital improvement project to renovate and upgrade the Lanham campus. A major component of the project is to build a new Women’s Health Center to expand women’s and children’s healthcare services in Prince George’s County. One of the goals of Vision 2030, Luminis’ 10-year strategic plan, is to eliminate maternal and infant mortality.

“It is unacceptable that eight out of 10 women have to deliver their baby outside of the county because of a lack of obstetrical and other healthcare services,” said Deneen Richmond, president of LHDCMC. “It’s a deep concern because the maternal mortality rate for Black women in Prince George’s County is 50 percent higher than the national average. We join Governor Wes Moore and his administration’s priorities for advancing health equity and addressing the mental health and obstetrical needs of all Marylanders.”

Once Luminis Health receives state approval for the proposed women’s tower, construction will begin immediately and take three to five years to complete. The state-of-art facility will provide obstetrics services, labor and delivery and postpartum care.



Registration Now Open For Bike to Work Day

Registration is now open for the Washington metropolitan area’s Bike to Work Day, to be held on Friday, May 19. Greenbelt will be hosting a pit stop in the Aquatic & Fitness Center parking lot from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association co-organize the celebration of bicycling as a green, low-cost commuting option. The 108 pit stops in D.C., suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia offer raffles, food and giveaways – and a free Bike to Work Day T-shirt for the first 15,000 registrants who attend.

It’s fast, free and easy to register at biketoworkmetrodc.org. New and veteran bicycle commuters alike are encouraged to register now. For those who wish to travel together, experienced volunteer bicycle commuters will lead convoys on the day of the event, with convoy starting point information available on the event website.



Neighbors enjoy the blooms at the garden party on April 16, including Katrina Boverman (back to camera), former city manager Michael McLaughlin and his wife Leslie (mostly hidden), center, John Henry Jones and Corita Waters.



Spring blooms on display at the garden party

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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CHARTER continued from page 12

Weaver and Pope also mentioned the resident survey undertaken early in the search process where only 30 percent of the 287 respondents ranked residency as one of their highest priorities in choosing a manager. Councilmember Judith Davis countered that since residency has always been a requirement, respondents may have taken it as a given.

Davis pointed out that some believe the issue is to allow the city to get applicants from outside the city, which it already does, rather than allowing council to permit the selected manager to live outside the city. She said she would not vote for the motion as she believes the manager should live in Greenbelt in order to be fully aware of residents’ needs and values and pay the taxes imposed by the budget itself. The manager should be nearby as roads may not be passable in an emergency.

Weaver and Gordon noted how much the world has changed since the charter was written with better communications, transportation and technology and increased ability to work remotely. Gordon noted that just because someone moves here does not necessarily mean they will be involved in the community. He said that the majority of residents he spoke with want council to make the decision based upon the actual circumstances. If an applicant lives in Hyattsville or Berwyn Heights, he asked, does the city really

need them to move here? On the other hand, if an applicant from California is selected, they should move to Greenbelt, he said.

Jordan said that the question of residency is very important to him. Council needs the discretion to look at candidates as individuals and make the best possible choice. If the resolution passes, he noted, the residency requirement will remain in the charter but “just lets council give a waiver.” He noted that waivers need not be forever. For example, College Park gave its city manager, who already lived in Virginia, a two-year waiver from the residency requirement since their kids will complete their schooling during that period.

Jordan said that the city has a diverse pool of applicants, some of whom live in the local area.

Byrd stated that all candidates under consideration are strong, and said he felt that anyone under consideration should consider living here.

NR

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More Events

David Craig Scholarship Applications Due April 30

For the 37th year, the David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund (DCMSF) is awarding a scholarship to a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). The \$12,000 scholarship (paid out over four years) honors Craig and celebrates the Craig Family’s legacy for continuing education. Applications for members of the ERHS class of 2023 can be requested by texting or calling 301-474-7874 or by emailing dahammer61@yahoo.com.

Completed applications must be received electronically or be date stamped by mail to P.O. Box 761, Greenbelt, MD 20768 on or before Sunday, April 30. Donations can be sent to the same address. The DCMSF is a privately funded nonprofit organization registered with the state of Maryland and all gifts, contributions and donations are tax deductible.

Golden Age Club

Meetings are held at the Community Center, Room 201, every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon. April 26 is Bingo, with lots of new items on the prize table.


GCC Bee Drive, Fair, Donations

On Sunday, April 23 from 3 to 5 p.m., Greenbelt Community Church (GCC), United Church of Christ will host a Heifer Project fair to have fun, raise money and raise awareness. Fundraisers include beeswax candle craft and a honey-focused bake sale. In addition there will be free exhibits, puzzles and other activities, as well as a hive from the Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association (weather permitting).

Greenbelt Writers Hold Monthly Poetry Meeting

The Greenbelt Writers Group will hold its monthly meeting on Friday, April 21 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center. All Greenbelt writers are welcome to attend. April is National Poetry Month and the group encourages writers to compose a new poem or read one of their completed poems. Nonpoets can bring a poem from a favorite author. Anyone can also bring copies of the selected poem to share. For more information, email Barbara Ford at barb.ford@comcast.net.


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Franklin Park Says Hello to Spring

Franklin Park Resident Gardening Day

To kick off the spring season, we had our residents come out to the Franklin Park garden to plant vegetables, flowers, and fruits. Our residents had so much fun and are looking forward to seeing the growth of their seeds throughout the season!



Spring Balcony Decorating Contest

Last month, we gave our residents the opportunity to express their creativity through participation in our Spring Balcony Decorating contest. They had to decorate their balconies with Spring décor and furniture and those that received the most engagement on their submissions won prizes!



Franklin Park Goes Green!

To close out our Resident Spring into Action week, we encouraged our residents to recycle and go green. Some ways we emphasized going green were through conserving water, using less plastic, and always making sure to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Though these are small acts, they have big impacts that will slowly but surely save our earth.



6220 Springhill Drive
Greenbelt, MD, 20770
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fpleasing@fieldstoneprop.com

